

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-16 are pending; claim 9 has been amended and claim 16 has been added. Claims 9 and 16 are supported *inter alia*, on page 12, line 34 to page 13, line and Fig. 5.

The allowance of claims 1 and 4-8 is noted with appreciation. The allowability of claims 3 and 11-15 is also appreciated.

Claims 2, 9 and 10 stand rejected as being anticipated by Koch et al. (U.S. 3,828,736).

Claim 9, directed to a converter for catalytic conversion of fuel, has been amended so that the vaporization space is within the conversion space as shown in Fig. 5 and discussed in the original text in the specification in the sentence bridging pages 12 and 13. This is completely different from Koch who discloses (Fig. 1) a pipe (10) into which separate feeds of exhaust gas (9) or intake air (8) and fuel (5) are fed. This pipe (10) is located outside of the conversion space in Koch. There is no teaching or suggestion in the reference that it could be located within the conversion space. Thus, claim 9 is clearly neither anticipated by nor obvious over Koch.

Claims 10 and 2 are also not anticipated by Koch.

There are at least two reasons why this rejection must fail. First of all, the claimed process is a method for "removing oxides of nitrogen from exhaust gases of internal combustion engines" while Koch is only concerned with the conversion of fuel into a gas mixture of methane and carbon monoxide (col. 1, lines 23-26; claim 1). The objects of these claims and Koch accordingly are completely different.

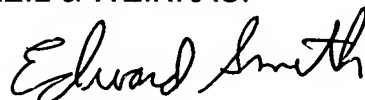
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Secondly, the process steps are different. The exhaust gas and fuel of Koch are not fed separately into the conversion space but rather are mixed in pipe (10) prior to entry into the conversion space (catalyst chamber (1)). The fuel in Koch is also not vaporized within the converter as required by claim 10, but rather in evaporator (6) outside the conversion space (1). Thus, claims 1 and 10 are also clearly neither anticipated by nor obvious over Koch.

Favorable action by the examiner is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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